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Title: Requests the Central Government to allocate the funds to revive the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited of Chennai.

SHRI T.R.BAALU (MADRAS SOUTH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the IDPL of Chennai was established during the days of late Shri K. Kamaraj to manufacture life saving medicines, drugs and surgical instruments at a cheaper price to cater to the needs of millions of people of the nation. The prices of products of this unit were administered by the Government to see that the products are supplied at cheaper rate. But due to the change in policy of the Government, the Budgetary support was stopped and the IDPL unit was about to be closed and it was referred to BIFR. In the BIFR package, it was decided that the labourers would make some sacrifice by way of wage freeze etc., and at the same time, the IDPL manatgement should come forward to infuse not less than Rs.78 crore to revive the unit. Even though the employees have sacrificed as per the package of BIFR, the IDPL management has not come forward to revive the unit, as promised. Recently the CMD had visited the project during January, 1998 and he promised that he would come forward very quickly to see that the industrial unit is revived. But so far even the salary has not been paid to thousands of employees who are starving. They are starving for the last four to five months. We are happy that the statue of late Shri K. Kamaraj was unveiled by the hon. Prime Minister of India in Parliament House. Shri K. Kamaraj is remembered in Parliament and he is adorned and we are happy about it. But, at the same time, the industrial organisation set up by his efforts in my constituency is being allowed slowly to die. The industry which was established during the days of Shri K. Kamaraj is being starved day to day and it is not at all receiving the help of Central Government as those of other similar industries and the Central Government is not coming forward to revive the unit. It is a tragedy.

I once again demand that the Government should come forward to revive this sick unit and to see that the required funds are provided to revive this unit and the salary of the employees of this unit should be paid forthwith.